Informant:	**LMP-S1**	**Spanish**
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Interviewers:	**C. Hernandez, M. O. Jones, P. Polk**	
Transcriber:	**?**	

CH: This is to catch spirits? It's a dream catcher.

S1: That's voodoo. Voodoo for love, for work, to cure, and to do harm. This one is to do harm.

CH: And it's voodoo?

S1: Yes.

CH: We wanted to ask you about this picture.

S1: That lady is the legend that was here. This lady had this for twelve years. She is from Tijuana. She could not walk and she had to be on crutches. I cured her with a plant called tepescohuitle and crinolina. This is then crushed and applied to the infection.

CH: How much apasote do you use?

S1: A lot. I mix the tepescohuitle with another thing. It gets crushed and is very good for wounds. Here, there are cases where people die because of a serious wound. What they need to do is apply coffee with sugar. Or you can burn a newspaper and place it on the wound. The only thing is that it will leave a scar but the bleeding will stop. Sometimes you may be at the mountains where they don't have anything so this can save your life.

CH: So you had to do this treatment before recommending the other thing of tepescohuitle?

S1: Yes, I performed cleanses, I would wash the wounds, bathe her, and use chickens to cure her.

CH: What would you wash her with?

S1: Crinoline, holy water, oil. Before everything, I wash them with hydroxide. The tepescohuitle produces flesh in three days. Please bring me the picture that has the Virgin Mary.

CH: How many days did you treat her?

S1: For a month. She would come see me every eight days so I could give her the medication I prepared.

CH: How many times a day did she have to apply the medication?

S1: Three times a day.

CH: (Translates)

S1: She was going to die and she knew it. This was about two years ago.

MOJ: Did he give you the list of all the herbs?

CH: This is what she said, " My name is Elena Ramirez. I had for twelve years some open sores that were painful." She tried many curanderos and doctors. The curanderos gave her everything and she was never healed. The doctors told her that it was nerves and dryness of the skin, cancer, and they even talked about cutting her legs off. She said she preferred to deal with the pain than to have her legs cut off. One day her niece talked about S1: saying that he had healed her and told her to go with him. And thank God She's healing from what other doctor and curanderos could not do in twelve years. Thank God and S1: because those open sores are disappearing in only five visits that she had. There were five visits and she was already having results. I've had great results. I can sleep better without pain. This is my proof of how I was before I came to see S1:. Again, I am thankful to God and to S1:.

MOJ: Do you know the cause of these lesions or what these lesions are?

S1: Yes, sometimes it's infections that you get from the ocean or they are infections. There are also hemorrhages, and there's another infection that an Israeli-Russian man has. He has an abrasion that came out on his back and they told him it was cancer. I've seen his back, his knees, his fingers, and elbows. I am curing him but he says he doesn't believe in any of this. He has two weeks and before it would burn him. Now, it is going away and the wound is healing because he had blood. He also has dandruff and it burns.

MOJ: In his legs also?

S1: Yes, he has it in almost all of his body. He said he went to see many doctors and specialists. He's also like someone from a university and is like a millionaire. He says there's no doctor that can cure him. Right now he is not paying me, he's just bringing me the things to cure him because he is kind of cheap. A woman that I cured recommended me to him. He is thirty years old and he cries because he thinks he has no cure.

CH: (translates)

MOJ: Is he using the same treatments, remedies as with this woman?

S1: Yes, the same.

CH: What are the remedies that you gave the woman?

S1: It was tepescohuitle but I don't have any right now.

CH: It was only tepescohuitle or other mixes?

S1: It's a variety.

CH: Do you know what the mixes are of the herbs?

S1: Yes, I can tell another day what these mixes are so you can record it. Right now I'm curing many people who are sick from depression. There's no work, no money.

CH: What kinds of works are you doing for this?

S1: Right now I am using baths to relax the body because there was a woman who wanted to kills herself the day before yesterday.

CH: Wow! What kind of baths? With what herbs?

S1: Baths I do with plants and I add mineral salts. Many people are depressed. They feel much better with the baths I give them. I also perform cleanses with smoke, and eggs from Creole chickens.

CH: How do you do cleanses with the smoke?

S1: I pass smoke and after the smoke, I spray them, then I hit them with rue leaves, rosemary, albaca, then white flowers, and florida water. I also pass incense around them and pray for them. Then I use this water that I already showed you. After that, I pass some chickens around them. I don't kill the chickens; they take them to their home.

CH: When you pass the eggs, in what way do you do that?

S1: In a cross, praying for them, and then things come out in the egg.

CH: After you do that, do you open the egg?

S1: No, it either cooks by itself or it cracks open. Something happens.

CH: So hey says he's been seeing a lot of people lately suffering from depression.

MOJ: Does he have any idea why?

CH: Because he says there's lack of work. The way things are in the system. It's very depressing. The economy is depressing. Did you wanna go ask him about the little dolls in the remedy that he was giving that woman? We wanted to ask you about the little dolls. For example, the woman that was outside and you gave him a red doll.

S1: All this is for someone who is your boyfriend and he wants to leave you. You get a doll…

CH: Does it have to be red?

S1: Yes, for love. You get the doll and write the name of the person. Then you cut off the head and put a picture of the person inside with pins in the form of a cross. Then you pray to Saint Simon. Then you lament that person with the picture saying, "This is not a doll, this is the body, soul, and spirit of whoever" and you put the picture of the woman in front and you get a piece of underwear from each person and tie them together.

CH: And you tie all that together?

S1: First, you tie the man's clothes with the woman's and then you write the name of the man and stick it with honey. Then, you tie the doll and the picture with red ribbon. After that, you put three pins in the chest and write the name of the person on the face. Then you tie them with twenty-one of these.

CH: Why twenty-one? Is there one of those dolls here?

S1: Yes.

CH: So what's the difference? But when you do them, you make them with much more potency?

S1: Yes.

CH: And how many days do you have to wait?

S1: A couple of days or a month and a half. But if you want to calm a person if they're giving you a lot of problems, like your husband or sometimes your children, you cut three lemons in the form of a cross. Then you add three albaca leaves, one of rue. You then place the name of the person and the name of the problematic one. Then you put a picture of the person with three pins and put this inside the lemon. Then you put the lemon in a jar with honey and let it freeze. This will take the strength from the person.

CH: And this is for any person that is very rebellious like for example if my stepson was very rebellious. Would he calm down?

S1: Yes. That is nothing bad. When he makes you mad we'll put him in the refrigerator. He He.

CH: (Translates)

MOJ: What about the image that he sold the woman this morning. How does that work?

CH: (translates what hermano S1: said) Is there a significance of why you use twenty-one rubber bands?

S1: That's just how it is.

MOJ: Does he ever do anything with nail clippings or hair filmings?

CH: (translates to S1:)

S1: Yes, I use nails and hair. I get the nails or the hair and I tie it with the name of the person, get a bag like this one and you put them inside. Then you carry this inside of your bra.

CH: The liquid you put this in, what kind of mix is it?

S1: It contains florida water, rosemary, rue, stick oil.

CH: Do you measure it?

S1: No, because the thicker the better.

MOJ: What about fingernails?

CH: How do you use the fingernails?

S1: They go tied together with the hair.

CH: We wanted to ask you about some of the illnesses because we found that we had more unanswered questions. For example, is there a difference between indigestion and empacho?

S1: Indigestion is when you eat something and it causes heartburn. It's when the food makes you feel bad. And empacho is when something sticks to your stomach.

CH: But how does one feel when one has empacho?

S1: When you have empacho your stomach hurts a lot and you don't get hungry. Your intestines make a funny sound. You have a lot of air in your stomach. Here, people and children die because they don't know about empacho. They only eat hamburgers, hotdogs and things like that. Bread is bad because if it gets stuck in the stomach and starts rotting. So if you leave it like that for a while, it will cause an ulcer. If you leave it for a while, it will start eating your stomach.

CH: So that's why you need to give recommendations?

S1: Here, I would recommend that parents don't give kids a lot of bread. Bread is bad and it's not very good for children.

CH: Would you say that children suffer from empacho more than adults do?

S1: Also adults.

CH: So, it doesn't affect children more than adults?

S1: It affects children more because there are mothers who aren't careful. If you are pregnant and are nursing your other child or you also get intestinal infections if the umbilical chord is too big.

CH: (translates what hermano S1: said)

S1: Empacho usually occurs below the ribs.

CH: Is there a difference between parasites and ringworm?

S1: There's a parasite that very skinny people have. They say that these parasites come out at night from the eyes, nose, and mouth.

CH: Are they long or short?

S1: Those animals are very hard to get out.

CH: How do you get them out?

S1: We get them out with apasote. Not all of them come out because they say that they go in the veins. Whoever has those gets itchy in the anus, ears, nose, and everything. The ringworm attacks kill children. I don't know how it is here because I don't get involved.

CH: So the solitaria and the worms are two different things?

S1: Worms are long and fat like the ones in the soil.

CH: But do you take them out the same way?

S1: It's more difficult for the solitaria to come out. I use avocado, peaches, oranges, and you put it to boil. But before, you need to eat something like cheese or milk. Like when you want to catch rats, you use cheese. There are many things that will make the worms come out.

CH: So first you give them that, and then you give them the remedy? Hot?

S1: You put it to cook and you give it hot.

CH: How many times do you have to give that remedy to take away the solitary?

S1: For about three days.

CH: How many times a day in those three days?

S1: Three times. You also put alcanfor. You also get alcohol and put it in the child's belly button. There are other kinds but I don't know them. People even throw up and they come out of the mouth. If they go to your brain, you die. It's very dangerous.

MOJ: What's the cause or source of these parasites?

S1: When children eat a lot of junk food. In Central America, children get fat and during this time they need to be treated. In the winter, the worms cannot come out because it's very difficult. Then, some children die because the worms eat their insides. When a child has worms, he sleeps with his eyes open because his mouth and face itch.

CH: And how do you get rid of worms?

S1: You cook apasote and they eat it.

CH: The apasote that is edible right?

S1: Yes. Children like it. Then there's also "lombrisaca" (worm killer).

CH: Is it a sort of powder?

S1: Yes, it's a powder.

CH: But you get it at a pharmacy right?

S1: Yes.

CH: How many times a day do they have to eat the apasote?

S1: About three or four times, if they worms come out.

CH: How many days does it take for the worms to get out?

S1: About three days. They are very big with heads on both ends.

CH: Do they come out of the anus?

S1: Yes.

MOJ: Does he grow this plant?

S1: Yes, I have some at my house.

MOJ: I'd like to get a sample some time.

S1: It looks like marijuana, but it's not.

CH: What is the difference between a headache and haqueca?

S1: A headache comes if you get angry, if you don't eat, there are people who drink coffee and then stop drinking it and get headaches, pressure, it may be from a head

injury. Most of the time they come from worrying about not having money to pay the rent. Things like that. It can also result in a tumor.

CH: Because of the headaches?

S1: Yes. It also comes from people who smoke a lot. When you have a cold, you also get headaches. You have to press your temples with slices of tomato and potato. But if there's a lot of pain, you get a handkerchief and tie it around your head.

CH: What are the symptoms of haqueca?

S1: Your nose is runny.

CH: So would it be something before sinusitis or something similar to sinusitis?

S1: Here, they call haqueca as sinusitis.

CH: Oh, ok so that is like pain in the forehead and stuff?

S1: Yes, because here in the city there's a lot of smog and the smoke goes inside your body. So you get raw meat from a creole chicken and make it like chicharrones. Then the oil is put in a dropper and the drops are put up the nose. This will then drain out all the bad that's inside.

CH: (translates)

MOJ: Why are there a lot of sinus problems?

S1: People don't take care of themselves. When it rains, your head gets wet and you don't cover yourself. Sometimes it comes from a strong cold and you stay with an infection. That gets to the nose and it smells a lot like a dead person.

CH: And that's how you know?

S1: Yes, because your nose smells.

CH: Would you say that smog contributes to sinus problems?

S1: Yes.

CH: Many women have problems before they get their period. They get mood swings and their emotions change and all that. Here they have a name for it, which is PMS. It's treated and the women take medication.

S1: It's because there is something wrong with the hormones or they lack them. Here, there is a lot of that. Some women do not get their period because they may be overweight. I know that a woman's period can come with a flower called "quinceanera."

CH: Is it "quinceanera" tea?

S1: Yes.

CH: How many times a day?

S1: About three times a day and it regulates the period and takes away the pain. They have a lot of pain in the mouth of the stomach and down by the vagina. It goes away with that.

CH: Does one have to take that before the period comes…or?

S1: If you want to get cured of that you have to take it as soon as possible.

CH: Are there any effects if you take it for a long time?

S1: No, it's a flower.

CH: (translates what HC said)

S1: Or they can also take myrtle.

CH: I also wanted to ask about black heads on the skin.

S1: Blackheads and acne go away by boiling a big pot of milk with one pound of sugar. You let the vapor hit your face and you cover your face with a towel over the pot. It will go away after three or four uses.

CH: Three or four uses a day…?

S1: At night. It's only once a day. Or you can get a very hot brick and then you put water. Then, you let the vapor hit your face.

MOJ: Before I forget, what about the rice…

CH: I wanted to know about the rice you put on the floor.

S1: That's for when if you have a business and people can be happy when they enter. Some people may be unhappy and bring their bad influences. This will then bring the influences to the whole environment: to me and everyone else. It contains honey, florida water, jinjibre, sanda, rose water, and cinnamon.

CH: Do you have to cook it?

S1: No, so that money can flourish.

MOJ: Which oils and which plants?

CH: I have a list of them.

MOJ: Okay, as long as you have it.

S1: What does he say?

CH: Have you heard about "descoajamiento?" It's when one leg is longer than the other because the stomach has fallen.

S1: I also treat that.

CH: How would you treat that?

S1: If it's a woman, the husband has to help me hang her upside down. First, I need to massage them. For both men and men, let's massage them carefully

S1: I massage from the thighs with oil.

CH: From down to up?

S1: Yes. And from there your husband hangs you and starts massaging you. Then, I massage the feet and I pull the toes.

CH: How many times do you do that?

S1: Three times. I also do this when a woman has a fallen womb or they have sex right after giving birth. I don't know how long a woman has to wait after giving birth, but in Guatemala it's about forty days. They have to eat warm food. When a woman has children, there are certain needles in the womb that slowly close up, but if they have sex, it will not close up and they will have a lot of pain. They don't cure themselves right after by wearing a belt around their waist and being careful. Here, they bathe the woman with cold water. In Guatemala, they don't bathe with cold water. The water needs to have something warm like (romero) rosemary, manzanilla and after you bathe, you need to drink something like hot chocolate.

CH: (translates)

MOJ: Is there someone he has to see pretty soon?

S1: Like in fifteen minutes.

MOJ: During their confinement, are there certain foods that a woman has to eat?

S1: Yes, they cannot eat beans, cheese, or eggs because since it's open inside and they get an inflammation. Here, hospitals give you eggs and beans all the time. That's why here when someone gets an operation the wound doesn't heal quickly.

CH: Is there anything else they shouldn't eat?

S1: Anything that is cold. Everything has to be hot. If you have a headache, just eat chicken soup and the headache will go away. If you have a lot of money then you'll eat a chicken a day but over there, people just eat one or two. But you have to eat things that won't harm you. They shouldn't eat tortillas because they're too heavy.

MOJ: Those foods that the women can't eat, would they be considered hot foods?

CH: No, they would probably be considered cold because he says you have to eat them hot.

S1: They have to eat cooked foods and nothing fresh. Another thing is that they can't be getting wet. They have to wear stockings and walk slowly, be tied around the waist.

CH: But there are foods that are not healthy.

S1: It is bad for her and for her chest. They put garlic so that the food will be hot. . . .